

## AN EASTER MEDITATION

Rom 4:23-25

Jelsava, 8th April 2018

Οὐκ ἐγράφη δὲ δι' αὐτὸν μόνον ὅτι ἐλογίσθη αὐτῷ  
<sup>24</sup> ἀλλὰ καὶ δι' ἡμᾶς, οἷς μέλλει λογίζεσθαι, τοῖς  
 πιστεύουσιν ἐπὶ τὸν ἐγεῖραντα Ἰησοῦν τὸν κύριον  
 ἡμῶν ἐκ νεκρῶν, <sup>25</sup> ὃς παρεδόθη διὰ τὰ  
 παραπτώματα ἡμῶν καὶ ἠγέρθη διὰ τὴν δικαίωσιν  
 ἡμῶν

**Rom 4:23-25** But the words "it was counted to him" were not written for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup> but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, <sup>25</sup> who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

## OUTLINE

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- 1.1. THE "RIGHTS" OF GOD
- 1.2. BEING "JUST"
- 1.3. THE CROSS → THE WRATH OF GOD
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**2. EASTER AND THE WORLD**

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**3. EASTER IN OUR EXPERIENCE**

- 3.1. HIS DEATH – OUR FORGIVENESS → ROM 5
- 3.2. HIS LIFE – OUR JUSTIFICATION → ROM 6

**4. TO REMEMBER****0. INTRO:****0.1. THE CONTEXT**

- the justification of Abraham ↔ Rom chpts. 5&6 (the "title")
- The justification of Abraham → believing in God's word

**0.2. FAITH AND UNDERSTANDING**

- **Dt 29:4** But to this day the LORD has not given you a heart to understand or eyes to see or ears to hear (וְלֹא־נָתַן יְהוָה לְכֶם לֵב לְדַעַת וְעֵינַיִם לְרִאּוֹת וְאֲזְנוֹת לְשָׁמֹעַ עַד הַיּוֹם הַזֶּה)
- **John 16:12** [Jesus:] I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now
- **1Cor 3:2** [Paul:] I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready
- **Heb 5:14** But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil
- Zechariah ↔ Mary → different *motives* in questioning God's ways
  - search for understanding: (1) to replace or to (2) support faith?

**0.2.1. FAITH AS TRUST**

- fides & fiducia

[BAVINCK]...faith. Precisely because a true faith-knowledge of God exists, dogmatic theology has the knowledge of God as part of its content and can rightly claim to be a science. This seems strange to many Christians today because

by “science” they have in mind the natural sciences such as physics, chemistry, biology, and geology. It is exactly here that we have our problem—a tyranny of empiricism and naturalism.

- **Jas 2:19** You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe – and shudder!
- faith → three components of knowledge (**notitia**), assent (**assensus**), and trust (**fiducia**)...
  - **Eph 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

### 0.3. DEATH & LIFE IN ROM 4:25

- the past ↔ the future; retributive justice ↔ restoration;
  - death as *SACRIFICE* → weakness → **2Cor 13:4** ...he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God
  - life as *ETERNITY* → power → **Rom 6:9** We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him

## 1. EASTER AND THE JUSTICE OF GOD

- a sensitive question of justice → everyone has a *right* to feel OK... → human *rights*;

### 1.1. THE “RIGHTS” OF GOD

- the Creator; the Sustainer; the Lawgiver; the Judge;
  - **1Cor 15:28** When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all (ὅτι ὁ θεὸς [τὰ] πάντα ἐν πᾶσιν)
  - **Isa 40:15** Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales (הֲיֵן גוֹיִם כְּמִדְּלֵי וְכַשְׂחָק מֵאֲזִינִים)
  - **Hab 2:13** Behold, is it not from the LORD of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing? (וַיִּנְעֻוּ עַמִּים בְּדִרְאֵשׁ וְלֹא־אִמִּים בְּדִרְרִיק וְעָבֹד)

### 1.2. BEING “JUST”

- justice/righteousness → realization of a *code* of an *ideal* (law-obedience; self-realization...)
- righteousness and justice

### 1.3. THE CROSS → THE WRATH OF GOD

- Justification and forgiveness
- past and future: a *burden* (shame; fear; cover up) fear (apprehension; anxiety; )
- **Mic 7:19** ...he will tread our iniquities under foot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea (וְתִשְׁלֹךְ בְּמַצְלוֹת יָם כָּל-חַטֹּאתֵינוּ).
- debt cancellation
- adjustments to the new relationships → new creation; new habits; new skills; new goals...

### 1.4. THE RESURRECTION → NEW LIFE OF FAITH

- **Rom 1:3-4** ...his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh <sup>4</sup> and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead

## 2. EASTER AND THE WORLD

- **Mk 15:33** And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour (σκότος ἐγένετο ἐφ’ ὅλην τὴν γῆν ἕως ὥρας ἐνάτης)
- **Mt 27:52-53** And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, <sup>53</sup> and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many (καὶ τὰ μνημεῖα ἀνεώχθησαν καὶ πολλὰ σώματα τῶν κεκοιμημένων ἁγίων ἠγέρθησαν, <sup>53</sup> καὶ ἐξελθόντες ἐκ τῶν μνημείων μετὰ τὴν ἔγερσιν αὐτοῦ εἰσῆλθον εἰς τὴν ἁγίαν πόλιν καὶ ἐνεφανίσθησαν πολλοῖς.)

### 2.1. THE CROSS → THE END OF THE WORLD

- → all died: **2 Cor 5:14** we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died
  - **Gal 6:14** ...the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me

## 2.2. THE RESURRECTION → NEW CREATION

- **Rev 1:5-6** Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father
- → we live in him: **John 14:19** ...Because I live, you also will live.
- **2Cor 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come

## 3. EASTER IN OUR EXPERIENCE

- **2Co 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God
- **1Thess 5:9-10** For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.
- **Rom 8:34** Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.
  - **Phil 3:8-11** For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith- <sup>10</sup> that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

### 3.1. HIS DEATH – OUR FORGIVENESS → ROM 5

- **Rom 5:8-10** God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.
  - (1) dead to sin: **Rom 6:11** you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus
  - (2) dead to people: **Lk 9:60** Leave the dead to bury their own dead.
  - (3) dead to good works: **Phil 3:6-7** ...as to righteousness, under the law blameless. <sup>7</sup> But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ (ἡγημαι διὰ τὸν Χριστὸν ζημίαν).

### 3.2. HIS LIFE – OUR JUSTIFICATION → ROM 6

- (1) Intercession → **1 John 2:1-2** But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup> He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.
- (2) Communion → **Gal 2:19-20** For through the law I died to the law, so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ. <sup>20</sup> It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- (3) Power → **Rom 6:10-12** For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. <sup>11</sup> So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. <sup>12</sup> Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions.

## 4. TO REMEMBER

- Faith grows through humble inquiries into Jesus's death and resurrection.
- Love for Jesus leads us to identification with Jesus's death and resurrection.
- Hope for resurrection and eternal life.